



# Call for Conference Proposals

## **Black Parenting Under the White Gaze**

**Submission deadline: April 13, 2020 at 11:59PM**

**Conference Date: Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Toronto**

This gathering will focus on the complexities of parenting within the African, Caribbean, and Black (ACB) communities in Canada. Black parents are not a monolithic group and this is reflected in the various parenting practices and strategies that exist. However, regardless of their identities, social locations, and parenting practices all Black parents experience anti-Black racism when interacting with education, recreational, child welfare, policing, transportation, and social services and systems. Researchers, governments, human rights commissions, academics, community agencies, as well as news reporters confirm what Black parents have been saying about their experiences – that anti-Black racism is prevalent in Canadian society and by extension creates unique challenges for Black parents.

The existing research indicates that Black Canadian parents experience institutional racism in all segments of society including, within their children's school system, living in low and substandard housing, being over-policed through carding/street checks, experiencing high underemployment and unemployment rates, a lack of access to adequate health care, and many other areas (Adjei, Mullings, Baffoe, Quaicoe, Abdul-Rahman, Shears & Fitzgerald, 2017; African Canadian Legal Clinic, 2012; James & Turner, 2017; Lalonde, Jones, & Stroink, 2008). This gathering will explore the experiences of Black parents and caregivers as well as the many ways in which they have and continue to resist and challenge anti-Black racism.

The work of the planning committee is grounded in Dei's (1996) conceptualization, which builds on Crenshaw's (1989) notion of intersectionality within a critical race theory (CRT) framework. Dei (1996) expanded on Crenshaw's work of race, gender and class to include sexuality and developed a critical integrative framework that examines the intersections of race, gender, class, sexuality and social oppression. Critical race theorists adopt a position known as 'racial realism' which holds that racism is a means by which societies allocate privilege and status (Delgado and Stefancic, 2017). This gathering takes a race-conscious approach to understanding how laws and policies marginalize Black parents and impact how they choose to parent. This conference will contribute to the scholarship in many ways by providing models of effective intervention strategies, support programs and services for Black parents. As well, it will help highlight the complexities of Black parenting and the resilience of Black parents. This conference will serve as a means to help validate and empower Black parents while educating those who work with Black parents.

**Audience:**

This conference is for Black parents and those caring for Black children, Black community members, professionals working with Black communities (e.g. social workers, educators, health care professionals), researchers, policy makers, students and anyone interested in learning more about Black parenting in Canada.

**Presentation Topics:**

We invite papers, workshops, panel discussions, and other creative presentation on the following topics:

- [Re]conceptualizing Black parenting
- Socialization of Black children in Black families
- Black parenting and the school system
- Strategies for parenting postsecondary children
- Black parents in transition
- Racism, violence, and their effects on Black parenting
- Black single parenting
- Black parenting success stories
- Parenting Black children in science, technology, engineer and math (STEM) programs
- Parenting after losing a child to violence
- Representations of Black parents in popular culture
- Black LGBTQ+ parents
- Religion & spirituality and Black parenting
- Intergenerational dynamics & trends in the Black family/community
- Black parents and the criminal justice system
- Immigration, transnational and diasporic trends of Black parenting
- Black Lives Matter and Black parents
- Intergenerational parenting
- Black parenting practices
- The role of extended family in Black parenting (e.g. grandparents, aunts etc.)
- Black youth parenting
- Black fathers' roles in parenting
- Transnational Black parenting
- Black mothers' roles in parenting
- Black parents as students
- Black Parents and the child welfare system
- Black parenting and the complexities of mental health
- Black parenting, adoption and foster care
- Black parenting through grief, loss and trauma

## Submissions:

Please send your proposals to [admin@blackparenting.ca](mailto:admin@blackparenting.ca) on or before **April 13, 2020 at 11:59PM**. Presentation times will vary depending on the proposal format.

Please include:

- Name and thematic area your proposal falls under
- Description of your proposal (150 words), the format, and who would benefit from it
- Name and brief bio of presenters
- Audio-visual equipment or support you might need to make your presentation successful

## References

Adjei, P. B., Mullings, D., Baffoe, M., Quaicoe, L., Abdul-Rahman, L., Shears, V., & Fitzgerald, S. (2017). The “fragility of goodness”: Black parents’ perspective about raising children in Toronto, Winnipeg, and St. John’s of Canada. *Journal of Public Child Welfare*, 12(4), 461–491.

African Canadian Legal Clinic (2012). *Errors and omissions: Anti-Black racism in Canada*. Toronto: ACLC.

Dei, G. S. (1996). *Anti-Racism Education: Theory and Practice*. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing.

Delgado, R. & Stefancic, J. (2001). *Critical Race Theory: An Introduction*. New York: NYU Press.

James, C. E., & Turner, T. (2017). *Towards race equity in education: The schooling of Black students in the Greater Toronto Area*. Toronto: York University.

Lalonde, R. N., Jones, J. M., & Stroink, M. L. (2008). Racial identity, racial attitudes, and race socialization among Black Canadian parents. *Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science*, 40(3), 129–139.

Turner, T., Boyce, T., & Butler, A. (2019). *Assessment of the Needs of Black Parents in Ontario*. Toronto, ON: Turner Consulting Group Inc.